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PARIS FOR KANEDA FOR A/S SIGUR, CINCPAC FOR FPA ONLY

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, KN, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: U.S. POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA

TOKYO/LAFLEUR, BEIJING/KEITH, MOSCOW/DE VILLAFRANCA

1. (U) AT THE BEGINNING OF THE OCTOBER 31 PRESS
CONFERENCE, SPOKESMAN REDMAN MADE THE FOLLOWING
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ANNOUNCEMENT:

STATEMENT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE DPRK

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, ROH TAE WOO, HAS
RECENTLY MADE SEVERAL CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING

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RELATIONS BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND THE
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA. FURTHERMORE, IN
HIS SPEECH TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
OCTOBER 18, AND IN HIS DECLARATION OF JULY 7, PRESIDENT
ROH CALLED FOR JOINT EFFORTS BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S
FRIENDS AND ALLIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, TO HELP
DRAW THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA OUT OF
ISOLATION AND ENCOURAGE IT TO ABANDON ITS LONGSTANDING
POLICIES OF CONFRONTATION AND VIOLENCE. THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT IS ANNOUNCING SEVERAL STEPS REGARDING
RELATIONS WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL ENCOURAGE UNOFFICIAL,
NON-GOVERNMENTAL VISITS FROM THE DPRK IN ACADEMICS,
SPORTS, CULTURE, AND OTHER AREAS SO LONG AS PROSPECTIVE
DPRK VISITORS ARE ELIGIBLE UNDER OUR VISA LAWS.

TO FACILITATE THE TRAVEL OF U.S. CITIZENS TO THE
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT WILL BE REVIEWING FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
AFFECTING TRAVEL TO THE DPRK WITH A VIEW TOWARD
PERMITTING TRAVEL SERVICES FOR EXCHANGE AND GROUP TRAVEL
ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT ABLE
TO OFFER CONSULAR PROTECTION OR SERVICES TO U.S. CITIZENS
WHO TRAVEL TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA.

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WE ARE REVIEWING COMMERCE REGULATIONS WITH A VIEW TOWARD
PERMITTING CERTAIN LIMITED COMMERCIAL EXPORTS OF
HUMANITARIAN GOODS TO THE DPRK ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.
U.S. LAW ALREADY PERMITS THE DONATION OF CERTAIN
HUMANITARIAN GOODS SUCH AS FOODSTUFFS, CLOTHING AND
MEDICINE.

GENERAL COMMERCIAL TRADE REMAINS UNLAWFUL; IT REMAINS
REGULATED STRICTLY UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE TRADING WITH
THE ENEMY ACT AND THE EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT.
FURTHERMORE, THE DPRK REMAINS ON OUR LIST OF STATES WHICH
SUPPORT OR ARE ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. ITS
BEHAVIOR IN THIS AREA IS SOMETHING WE WILL CONTINUE TO
SCRUTINIZE CLOSELY.

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS INSTRUCTING U.S. DIPLOMATS
THAT THEY MAY ONCE AGAIN HOLD SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS
WITH OFFICIALS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
KOREA IN NEUTRAL SETTINGS. WE ISSUED SUCH GUIDANCE IN

SEPTEMBER, 1983, AND MARCH, 1987, IN THE HOPE THAT SUCH CONTACTS COULD LEAD TO INCREASED MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS, EVENTUALLY, TO IMPROVED RELATIONS. THESE HOPES WERE NOT REALIZED AND THE GUIDANCE WAS WITHDRAWN. WE ARE AGAIN AUTHORIZING SUBSTANTIVE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

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WE HAVE TAKEN THESE STEPS IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH OUR ROK ALLY AND WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. WE HAVE INFORMED THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND ARE ASKING THAT THEY CONVEY OUR VIEWS TO THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA. WE LOOK TO THAT GOVERNMENT FOR A POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE.

EXCHANGE

2. (U) THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE THEN TOOK PLACE:

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Q: WHAT SORT OF HUMANITARIAN GOODS ARE YOU THINKING OF?

A: THESE ARE GOING TO BE ITEMS OF A TYPE IDENTIFIED IN COMMERCE REGULATIONS GOVERNING HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS THAT ARE INTENDED TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. THEY INCLUDE SUCH ITEMS AS FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SMALL-SCALE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, AND HAND TOOLS. WHAT I JUST SPECIFIED WERE THOSE THINGS ALLOWABLE AS DONATIONS. WHAT WILL BE ALLOWABLE AS HUMANITARIAN TRADE WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

- SO WHEN I SAY WE ARE UNDERTAKING THIS REVIEW, IT'S GOING TO BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE EXACT DETERMINATION IS MADE.

Q: AND THERE WILL BE SOME LEVEL BEYOND WHICH THAT TRADE CANNOT GO?

A: I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE'S ANYTHING BY THE WAY OF LEVEL. BUT BASICALLY, IT'S A QUESTION OF CERTAIN CATEGORIES THAT WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMMERCIAL TRADE NOW.

Q: AND WILL TRADE BE PERMITTED IN THE OTHER DIRECTION? WILL NORTH KOREA BE PERMITTED TO SELL TO THE UNITED STATES -- U.S. CUSTOMERS?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHAT RESTRICTIONS ARE PLACED ON THAT,

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Q: WHY DID IT TAKE SO MUCH TIME? I THINK THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIGUR SAID AT THE TIME WHEN PRESIDENT ROH CAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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HERE, VISITED WASHINGTON, YOU WOULD ANNOUNCE THE DECISION IN A FEW DAYS. BUT IT'S ABOUT TEN DAYS NOW. WERE THERE ANY DIFFICULTIES IN YOU MAKING DECISIONS?

A: NO, NOT AT ALL. IT'S JUST A QUESTION OF WORKING THROUGH THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES THAT HAVE TO BE WORKED THROUGH.

Q: YOUR MEASURES DON'T INCLUDE THE REMOVAL OF NORTH KOREA AS A TERRORIST STATE. SO WHEN WILL YOU REMOVE NORTH KOREA FROM THE TERRORIST STATE LIST?

A: AS MY ANNOUNCEMENT SAID, IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THAT REMOVAL. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT NORTH KOREA HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS LONG-STANDING POLICY OF USING TERRORISM TO FURTHER ITS GOALS. IT REMAINS ON THE LIST OF STATES SUPPORTING TERRORISM.

Q: DO YOU THINK THAT THESE MEASURES COULD LEAD TO SOMETHING VERY SIGNIFICANT, ULTIMATELY, FOR EXAMPLE, TO A POTENTIAL REDUCTION OF AMERICAN TROOPS OR THE REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE TROOPS IN THE REGION?

A: I THINK YOU'VE MOVING NOW TO QUESTIONS THAT ARE VERY, VERY, VERY FAR DOWNSTREAM. THE FIRST POINT IS TO SEE IF THERE IS A POSITIVE/CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE FROM NORTH KOREA. WE HAVE TAKEN THOSE STEPS, AS I SAID, TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT ROH TAE WOO'S INITIATIVE. WE BELIEVE THAT IT ALSO SERVES OUR INTERESTS IN PROMOTING STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE A VERY STRONG AND STEADY POLICY OF PROVIDING A DETERRENT CAPABILITY TO ASSIST OUR REPUBLIC OF KOREA ALLIES, AND THAT CERTAINLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE A KEY PORTION OF OUR POLICY.

Q: WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER A POSITIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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A: THAT'S UP TO THEM TO DETERMINE, OF COURSE. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS THEY COULD DO THAT WOULD BE ESSENTIALLY OF NO COST TO THEM BUT WOULD BE ENCOURAGING SIGNALS OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY. TO NAME A FEW: PROGRESS IN DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS; RETURN OF OUR KOREAN CONFLICT MISSING-IN-ACTION REMAINS, FIVE OF WHICH THE NORTH HAS ADMITTED TO HOLDING; ELIMINATING VICIOUS ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA; UNDERTAKING WITH US THE CONSTRUCTIVE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES WHICH WE AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAVE PROPOSED TO REDUCE TENSIONS ALONG THE DMZ; AND PROVIDING CREDIBLE ASSURANCES THAT NORTH KOREA HAS ABANDONED ITS USE OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE AS AN INSTRUMENT OF STATE POLICY.

Q: ON THE MATTER OF THE MIA REMAINS, WILL THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT NOW PERMIT OR ENCOURAGE AMERICAN VETERANS' GROUPS TO GO TO NORTH KOREA TO DEAL WITH THAT ISSUE?

A: THAT'S UP TO THE GROUPS IN QUESTION TO DETERMINE. WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO, AS A I SAID IN THIS POLICY STATEMENT, IS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THESE KINDS OF EXCHANGES TO TAKE PLACE: BOTH FOR NORTH KOREANS TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES IN SOME CATEGORIES, AND ALSO FOR VARIOUS GROUPS AS WELL AS INDIVIDUALS AND EXCHANGES TO TAKE PLACE IN A TWO-WAY DIRECTION.

Q: WELL, YOU SAY IT'S UP TO THOSE GROUPS. THOSE GROUPS HAVE WANTED TO GO FOR THE LAST YEAR AT LEAST, BUT HAVE BEEN TOLD IN SEVERAL CASES BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THEY'RE NOT PERMITTED TO DO.

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A: I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THAT. WE HAVE NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED AS A GENERAL PRINCIPLE PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS' TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA. WE ALWAYS POINT OUT THAT THERE'S A TRAVEL ADVISORY WHICH SAYS THAT WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, AND, THEREFORE, WE CAN'T PROVIDE THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO AMERICANS IF THEY ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS THERE.

- OUR POLICY NOW IS TO ENCOURAGE UNOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL EXCHANGES, AND AT THE SAME TIME TO REDUCE SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS ON TRAVEL-RELATED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASIER IN SOME

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- JUST TO COMPLETE THE RECORD, CURRENTLY THE TRANSACTIONS RELATING TO TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA BY INDIVIDUALS ARE AUTHORIZED, AND SO WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT IN CONJUNCTION WITH TREASURY WOULD BE A CHANGE IN REGULATIONS TO ALSO FACILITATE SUCH TRAVEL BY PRIVATE GROUPS.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF MIA'S IN NORTH KOREA?

A: I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FIGURE FOR THAT. WHAT I KNOW IS THAT AT THE END OF THE KOREAN WAR THERE WERE 8,177 AMERICAN SOLDIERS UNACCOUNTED FOR. IN LATE 1987, NORTH KOREA INFORMED US THAT THEY HAD DISCOVERED FIVE SETS OF REMAINS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS, AND THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT I WAS SPECIFICALLY MAKING REFERENCE TO. THERE IS A BODY KNOWN AS THE MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION WHICH MEETS IN PANMUNJOM, AND THAT IS THE BODY SPECIFIED BY THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT TO DEAL WITH MIA ISSUES.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE REACTION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SOVIET UNION AND CHINA AND NORTH KOREA CONCERNING THE SIX-NATION CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE IN EAST ASIA?

A: NO I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER BY WAY OF REACTION.

Q: DR. SIGUR WILL MEET HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART, ROGACHEV, ON WEDNESDAY, IN PARIS. DO YOU EXPECT THAT YOUR REVISED POLICY TOWARD NORTH KOREA WILL INDUCE THE SOVIET UNION TO USE INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREAN OPEN DOOR POLICY?

A: I REALLY COULDN'T PREDICT WHAT INFLUENCE OTHER COUNTRIES WILL USE. I THINK I CAN EXPLAIN, AS I HAVE -- WHY WE HAVE TAKEN THESE STEPS ON OUR PART, WHAT OUR INTENTIONS ARE, AND I THINK THAT IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT IF OTHER COUNTRIES THAT HAVE INFLUENCE WOULD USE IT IN THE SAME DIRECTION, THAT IS TO BE WELCOMED. BUT WHAT THEY WILL CHOOSE TO DO WILL DEPEND ON THEM.

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GUIDANCE

3. (LOU) MR. REDMAN'S ANSWERS WERE TAKEN FROM THE

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Q: IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT KEYED TO THE ABSENCE OF A
TERRORIST INCIDENT DURING THE SEOUL OLYMPICS?

A: OUR REVIEW IS PART OF OUR EFFORT TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF
REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENT ROH TAE WOO'S CONSTRUCTIVE
NEW IDEAS FOR THE KOREAN PENINSULA. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT
ROH'S INITIATIVE ALSO SERVES OUR INTERESTS IN PROMOTING
STABILITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

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THE ABSENCE OF TERRORISM AT THE OLYMPICS AND THE
RESUMPTION OF INTER-KOREA DIALOGUE HAVE BEEN FACTORS IN
OUR DECISION TO REVIEW U.S. POLICY REGARDING NORTH KOREA.

Q: IS THE ANNOUNCEMENT A REWARD FOR NORTH KOREA?

A: OUR REVIEW HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN FOR THE REASONS SET
OUT. OUR CONCERNS WITH NORTH KOREAN SUPPORT OF TERRORISM
HAVE NOT CHANGED.

Q: DOES THIS ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATE A MOVING AWAY FROM THE
USG POSITION THAT NORTH KOREA IS A STATE SPONSOR OF
TERRORISM?

A: NO, THE EVIDENCE IS CONCLUSIVE THAT LESS THAN A YEAR
AGO, ON NOVEMBER 29, 1987, NORTH KOREAN TERRORIST AGENTS
DESTROYED KA-858 WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT NORTH KOREA
HAS MOVED AWAY FROM ITS LONG-STANDING POLICY OF USING
TERRORISM TO FURTHER ITS GOALS. THE DPRK REMAINS ON THE
LIST OF STATES SUPPORTING TERRORISM.

Q: DOES THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IMPLY THAT THE U.S. IS NO
LONGER SURE WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KAL BOMBING?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT; THE EVIDENCE IS OVERWHELMING THAT N.
KOREAN AGENTS DESTROYED KOREAN AIR FLIGHT 858 ON NOVEMBER
29, 1987.

Q: ISN'T THIS ANNOUNCEMENT PREMATURE GIVEN THE RELATIVE
LACK OF SUCCESS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH KOREAN DIALOGUE?

A: PRESIDENT ROH HAS INDICATED HE THINKS MOVES BY US NOW
CAN HELP FURTHER THE EFFORT THAT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS
MAKING TO PROMOTE INTER-KOREAN DIALOGUE. WE WISH TO

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DEMONSTRATE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT ROH'S DESIRE
TO ENCOURAGE NK OUT OF THE ISOLATION IT HAS CHOSEN FOR
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ITSELF.

Q: WHAT WOULD THE U.S. CONSIDER A "CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE?"

A: EXAMPLES OF STEPS NORTH KOREA COULD TAKE, AT NO COST
TO ITS OWN LEGITIMATE INTERESTS AND WHICH WOULD BE
ENCOURAGING SIGNALS OF A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY WOULD
INCLUDE:

- PROGRESS IN DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS;
- RETURN OF OUR KOREAN CONFLICT MIA REMAINS, FIVE OF
WHICH THE NORTH HAS ADMITTED HOLDING;
- ELIMINATING VICIOUS ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA;
- UNDERTAKING WITH US THE CONSTRUCTIVE
CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES WE AND THE ROK HAVE PROPOSED
TO REDUCE TENSIONS ALONG THE DMZ;
- PROVIDING CREDIBLE ASSURANCES THAT NORTH KOREA HAS
ABANDONED ITS USE OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENCE AS AN
INSTRUMENT OF STATE POLICY.

Q: WHY IS IT IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO INCREASE
CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA?

A: IT IS IN THE U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST TO TAKE ANY STEPS
WHICH MAY OFFER THE POSSIBILITY OF REDUCING TENSIONS,
PROMOTING DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO KOREAS, AND CREATING
AN ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE PENINSULA'S SERIOUS,
UNRESOLVED SECURITY AND POLITICAL ISSUES CAN BE
CONSTRUCTIVELY ADDRESSED. IT IS ALSO IN THE U.S.
NATIONAL INTEREST TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE DETERRENT TO
AGGRESSION, ALONG WITH OUR ROK ALLY. WE ARE DOING BOTH.

Q: WHAT HAPPENED PREVIOUSLY WITH THE CONTACT POLICY?

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A: WE AUTHORIZED DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA IN
1983 FOR A BRIEF TIME AND AGAIN IN 1987 FOR NINE MONTHS.
OUR HOPES THEN THAT SUCH CONTACTS COULD LEAD TO INCREASED
MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS, EVENTUALLY, TO IMPROVED
RELATIONS WERE NOT REALIZED. (THE POLICY RESULTED IN

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CONTACTS, ALMOST NO SUBSTANCE.) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
THE POLICY WAS WITHDRAWN
ON BOTH OCCASIONS IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC DPRK TERRORIST
ACTS.

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Q: GIVEN NORTH KOREA'S HISTORY OF XENOPHOBIC BEHAVIOR WHY
DO WE BELIEVE SUCH CONTACTS "COULD LEAD TO INCREASED
MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING"?

A: OF COURSE, THERE COULD BE INCREASED MUTUAL
UNDERSTANDING, IF THE NORTH WISHES IT. WE HOPE THE
LEADERS IN PYONGYANG DO SO WISH.

Q: DO WE HAVE INDICATIONS THAT NORTH KOREA WISHES TO TALK
TO OUR DIPLOMATS?

A: OTHER THAN REPEATED STATEMENTS FROM PYONGYANG THAT THE
US AND N. KOREA SHOULD TALK DIRECTLY, NO.

Q: WHAT IS THE CURRENT CONTACT POLICY REFERRED TO IN THE
STATEMENT?

A: OTHER THAN ACTIVITIES RELATED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS, U.S. DIPLOMATS HERETOFORE WERE NOT
PERMITTED MORE THAN THE MINIMUM CONTACT COMMENSURATE WITH
ORDINARY STANDARDS OF COURTESY.

Q: HAVE THERE ALREADY BEEN CONTACTS BETWEEN U.S. AND
NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS?

A: NO.

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Q: WHAT WILL BE THE PRACTICAL DIFFERENCE ABOUT HOW VISA
REQUESTS WILL BE TREATED?

A WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXAMINE VISA APPLICATIONS ON A
CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, WITHIN THE CURRENT LAWS AND
REGULATIONS, INCLUDING SECURITY CONCERNS. WE MIGHT
EXPECT THAT MORE NORTH KOREANS WOULD APPLY UNDER THESE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q: HOW WOULD A NORTH KOREAN APPLY FOR A U.S. VISA?

A: HE COULD APPLY AT ANY U.S. CONSULAR OFFICE OVERSEAS.

Q: WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE FOR A VISA?

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A: EACH APPLICATION BY LAW AND REGULATION MUST BE CONSIDERED ON ITS MERITS. WE WOULD BE INCLINED TO ISSUE VISAS TO OTHERWISE QUALIFIED NORTH KOREAN CITIZENS DEMONSTRATING A BONA FIDE INTENT TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S. FOR UNOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.

Q: ARE WE RELAXING ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRAVEL OR ACTIVITIES OF MEMBERS OF THE N. KOREAN U.N. OBSERVER MISSION?

A: NO.

Q: WHAT ARE THOSE RESTRICTIONS?

A: MEMBERS OF THE N. KOREAN U.N. OBSERVER MISSION ARE REQUIRED TO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO TRAVEL MORE THAN 25 MILES FROM MANHATTAN; WE EXPECT THEM TO CONFINE THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THOSE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THEIR U.N. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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OBSERVER STATUS.

Q: WHAT ARE "UNOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL" PURPOSES?

A: AS EXAMPLES, ILLUSTRATIVE AND NOT NECESSARILY INCLUSIVE: TRAVEL FOR LEGITIMATE ACADEMIC PURPOSES; TRAVEL RELATED TO CULTURAL OR SCIENTIFIC EVENTS; TOURISM. EACH APPLICATION WILL BE REVIEWED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, BUT WE DO NOT THINK IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO MAKE THAT DETERMINATION.

Q: ARE THERE ANY "NON-OFFICIAL" N. KOREAN TRAVELERS?

A: WE WILL LOOK MORE TO THE PURPOSE OF THE TRAVEL THAN TO THE STATUS OF THE TRAVELER.

Q: WHAT CATEGORIES OF NORTH KOREANS WOULD HAVE COME HERE IF THERE HAD NOT BEEN RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED AFTER THE KAL ATTACK?

A: OTHER THAN APPLICATIONS RELATED TO THE N. KOREAN U.N. OBSERVER MISSION, SINCE WE IMPOSED OUR POST KA-858 SANCTIONS IN JANUARY 1988 WE HAVE RECEIVED VISA APPLICATIONS FROM ONLY EIGHT NORTH KOREANS. FOUR WERE APPLYING TO ATTEND A SPEED SKATING EVENT IN ST. LOUIS, IN FEBRUARY: THEY WERE DENIED. FOUR WERE SCIENTISTS INVITED

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TO A MULTINATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAMS, IN JUNE. BECAUSE
OF THE MULTINATIONAL CHARACTER OF THAT CONFERENCE, THOSE
VISAS WERE ISSUED.

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I DON'T PRETEND TO KNOW HOW MANY NORTH KOREANS WOULD HAVE
APPLIED HAD WE NOT ANNOUNCED THE SANCTIONS, BUT I CAN SAY
THERE HAVE NOT BEEN MANY APPLICATIONS OVER THE PAST FEW
YEARS.

Q: WHAT KINDS WOULD BE ALLOWED NOW?

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A: PERSONS TRAVELING FOR BONA FIDE, UNOFFICIAL
NON-GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.

Q: HOW WOULD THIS AFFECT U.S. TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA?

A: HERETOFORE, WE NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED
PRIVATE U.S. CITIZENS' TRAVEL TO N. KOREA. WE DO,
HOWEVER, HAVE A TRAVEL ADVISORY WHICH POINTS OUT THAT
BECAUSE WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA,
WE CANNOT PROVIDE PROTECTIVE SERVICES TO AMERICANS IF
THEY ENCOUNTER PROBLEMS THERE.

WE WILL NOW FACILITATE UNOFFICIAL, NON-GOVERNMENTAL
EXCHANGES. WE ARE ALSO REVIEWING SOME OF THE LIMITATIONS
ON TRAVEL-RELATED FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS, WHICH WILL IN
SOME CASES MAKE IT SIMPLER FOR U.S. CITIZENS TO GO TO N.
KOREA.

Q: WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN PRACTICAL TERMS? WHAT WILL
PEOPLE BE ABLE TO DO THAT THEY COULD NOT DO BEFORE?

A: CURRENT REGULATIONS AUTHORIZE FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS
RELATING TO TRAVEL TO NORTH KOREA BY INDIVIDUALS ONLY.
WE WILL BE REVIEWING WITH TREASURY A CHANGE IN
REGULATIONS TO ALSO FACILITATE SUCH TRAVEL BY PRIVATE
GROUPS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

Q: WHAT KINDS OF COMMODITIES AND ITEMS ARE ALLOWED IN THE
"HUMANITARIAN TRADE"?

A: THESE ARE ITEMS OF A TYPE IDENTIFIED IN COMMERCE
REGULATIONS GOVERNING HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS THAT ARE
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INTENDED TO MEET BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. THEY INCLUDE SUCH
ITEMS AS FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, SMALL-SCALE
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND HAND TOOLS. WHAT EXACTLY WILL
BE ALLOWABLE AS HUMANITARIAN TRADE -- ON A CASE BY CASE
BASIS -- WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE. SHULTZ

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